

# BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.  
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone  
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey  
Member

Kim Dennison  
Election Coordinator

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## MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

September 6, 2013

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Russell Anzalone, and Robbyn Tumey

Others present: Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, Tiffany Underwood, and Dana Caler

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

### **Minutes:**

Chairman Brown asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of June 27, July 16, and July 19, 2013. There being none, Chairman Brown made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **New Business:**

- A. Certification of Election Results for the Springdale Special Run-Off Election held on September 3, 2013: Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey to review the results for the Springdale Special Run-Off Election. Chairman Brown asked for discussion. There being no discussion, Chairman Brown made a motion to approve the Springdale Special Run-Off Election held on September 3, 2013, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Proposed Revision of Precincts to Comply with Act 1211 of 2013: Chairman Brown stated that the Act 1211 of 2013 requires counties to cap the size of voting precincts at 3,000 voters. Chairman Brown added that the Legislature may further reduce the size of the precincts to 1,200 registered voters per precincts at the next legislative session. Elections/Voter Administrator Dana Caler stated that this prospect was discussed at a recent meeting of election officials. She explained that the county could put more than one (1) precinct in a polling location, but state law restricts that to no more than three (3) precincts in one location. Chairman Brown asked Dana if there would have to be three different sets of poll workers at the polling sites or could you use one set of poll workers. Dana stated that a precinct could have one Sheriff, but there would have to be additional workers and there would be multiple ballots. Dana commented that if the precincts are reduced to 1,200 voters, that would put Benton County with approximately 148 precincts. Commissioner Tumey stated that would create numerous ballot splits and there would not be enough Ivotronics for that number of precincts. Commissioner Anzalone stated that he could not understand why the Legislatures would

want to reduce a precinct to 1,200 registered voters. Dana responded that the Legislatures believe it will make reporting election results easier. Chairman Brown thanked Tiffany for the work she did on the map showing the current and additional fifteen (15) precincts. Tiffany stated that changes could begin October 9, 2013 after the Annual School Run-Off Election, if there is no election called for in December, this project can be completed by January 20, 2014. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim how many additional poll workers would be needed. Kim stated at least five poll workers per precinct. Kim stated that the IvoTronics could be programmed to have more than one precinct, if there is difficulty finding new polling locations. Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey for further comments. There being no further comments, Chairman Brown made a motion to pre-approve the map adding the 15 additional precincts, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Other Business:**

Chairman Brown commented on a newspaper article that appeared in the opinion page of The Benton County Daily Record concerning the Election Commission and its consideration of purchasing the software package to program electronic ballots in-house. Chairman Brown stated the gentleman writing the article claimed he had over thirty (30) years' experience in writing programs and designing business systems and he felt programming electronic ballots in-house would require a full-time programmer. Chairman Brown continued by stating the gentleman thought the work would be beyond the capability of the election coordinator and the commissioners. Chairman Brown stated that this gentleman stated the voters would be better served having the commissioners spend their time researching and evaluating Internet voting systems for computer-savvy voters. Chairman Brown added that he had concerns with Internet voting systems. Chairman Brown stated that we must have the approval of Federal and State Governments before the Election Commission could consider any program. Chairman Brown stated he appreciated the letter the gentleman wrote.

Chairman Brown stated that the Election Commission would like to proceed in testing the IPower System during the Annual School Election to be held September 17, 2013 at two (2) polling sites. Chairman Brown stated if the IPower was successful, the commission could request approval from the Quorum Court to purchase the IPower System. Chairman Brown stated that the IPower would speed the registration of voters at the polling sites. Commissioner Tumey asked if IPower is being tested next week. Dana responded that she is waiting for the Secretary of State to release IPower into production before it can be used. Kim stated that Bella Vista Baptist Church (Pct. #28) and Bentonville Parks and Recreation (Pct. #37) will be the two (2) test precincts if IPower is approved. Commissioner Tumey asked who would pay for IPower if it is approved by the state? Kim stated that the IPower was currently in the budget for the Election Commission, but the data base would be under the county clerk. Dana added that she would have to confirm with County Clerk O'Brien to see if the cost would be shared. Chairman Brown made a motion to approve the use of IPower on a test basis in Precincts 28 and 37 if it is approved by the state, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Brown asked Kim if there is money in the 2013 budget to purchase additional joggers. Kim responded, yes. Chairman Brown asked Kim to purchase two (2) additional joggers for the 650 paper ballot counting machines.

**Old Business:**

None

**Public Comments:**

None

**Announcements:**

Commissioner Tumey asked Kim if there are any more elections scheduled after the Annual School Election to be held on September 17, 2013. Kim stated that if there is a run-off, it would be held October 8, 2013.

Chairman Brown stated the Siloam Springs Special Election will be held September 10, 2013, the Annual School Election will be held September 17, 2013, and Annual School Run-Off Election to be held October 8, 2013.

Chairman Brown announced that the Election Commission will be meeting on September 20, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. and again on September 27, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Tumey asked when the deadline is for submitting the 2014 budget. Kim responded that September 13<sup>th</sup> is when the budget should be turned into the Comptroller. After that, the Comptroller will contact Chairman Brown and the County Clerk for a meeting before September 30<sup>th</sup>. After that it will be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. Commissioner Tumey asked who would be at the meeting to answer questions. Kim responded that last year it was Chairman Brown, the County Clerk, and her. Commissioner Tumey stated that she thought that the commissioners should be present.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone, Secretary  
Prepared by Sharon Rose  
Benton County Election Commission